

## The Significance of This Year's Resurrection Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**John 20:1-18 NIV** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (2) So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (3) So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. (4) Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. (5) He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. (6) Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, (7) as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. (8) Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (9) (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) (10) Then the disciples went back to their homes, (11) but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb (12) and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. (13) They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." (14) At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. (15) "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." (16) Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). (17) Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (18) Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

- Today, on this Resurrection Sunday, we celebrate the risen Lord, Who was crucified, buried, and rose again from the tomb on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.
- However, the timing of Resurrection Sunday this year is most interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is the day it's on.
- Let me explain, the third of four blood moons appeared on the fourth day, of the fourth month, for four minutes, and forty-four seconds.
- That's not all, this lunar eclipse, which is also one of four blood moons, is the fourth shortest eclipse to ever take place in 4,000-years.
- It's interesting to note according to Genesis 1:16-19 it was on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Creation that God created the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars.
- There's more, the Name of God in Hebrew is 4-letters; the 4<sup>th</sup> letter of the Hebrew alphabet is Dalet, which also means "Door" in English.
- Here's where I'm going with all of this, the Doorpost is significant in the celebration of the Feast of Passover as it relates to the Exodus.
- This because the Israelites were to spread the blood of the Passover lamb on the door of their home in four places for death to Passover.
- Also, in the Passover Seder the Jews to this day, celebrate with four cups of wine, which point to and speak of the significance of the #4.
- In 2010, when we were in the book of Leviticus, we embarked on what I believe was one of the most fascinating studies in all of the Bible.
- Namely, chapter 23, which is about the seven feasts the Lord appoints for the children of Israel to celebrate as Holy Days, or holidays.
- What makes this study so exciting is that these feasts are prophetic in how they speak to, and even point to, the person of, Jesus Christ.
- Kindly allow me to share with you about these 7 prophetic feasts beginning with the Hebrew word for feast, which is the same in Arabic.
- The word feast, where we get festive, and festival is Moade, which means an appointed time, or a sign pointing to a time that's yet future.
- In other words, these 7-Feasts pointed to a time yet future, when they would be fulfilled, just as a sign points us to our final destination.
- Enter the first Feast, the Feast of Passover, which was to be on the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight as the Lord's Passover.
- The Feast of Passover is a prophetic picture of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ as our Passover Lamb, this according to 1 Corinthians 5:7.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for a bit as I connect the dots between the Passover Lamb in the Exodus, and Christ as our Passover Lamb.

The calendar starts over with a lamb	The calendar started over as "the" lamb
The lamb is brought in the house on the 10 <sup>th</sup> day	Jesus made his triumphant entry on the 10 <sup>th</sup> day
10 <sup>TH</sup> Aviv	Procession of Lamb into Temple
10 <sup>TH</sup> Aviv	Lamb examined, four days (Exodus 12:1-11)
14 <sup>TH</sup> Aviv	Passover begins at 6:00 PM
3 <sup>RD</sup> Hour	Lambs are prepared for sacrifice at 9:00 AM
9 <sup>TH</sup> Hour	Lambs are sacrificed at 3:00 PM
The lamb was to be found without any blemish	Jesus was found to be innocent, without any sin
The blood of the lamb was in the shape of a cross on their door	Jesus as the Lamb shed His blood on the cross
The lamb had to come into contact with the fire/judgment	Jesus had to endure the judgment of mankind's sin
The lamb was to be eaten with bitter herbs	Jesus endured the bitterness of the cross
The lamb had to be "finished" by the morning	Jesus said; "it is finished," now for resurrection morning
The lamb would save from death the "firstborn"	Jesus saves those who are "born again" in the "second birth"
The lamb was not to have any bones broken	Jesus had none of His bones broken
The bread had to be without leaven	Jesus, the bread of life, is without sin

- Enter the second Feast, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which was on the next day. This is a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ's burial.

Leaven is a type of sin, as such the bread was unleavened	Jesus Christ was without sin, as such He is the unleavened bread
At the Passover meal, they have three pieces of unleavened bread	The three breads represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
The Matzah-bread in the center is then broken in two	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Matzah represents Jesus' body that's broken
The Matzah-bread now is two pieces of one bread	Jesus was both fully God and fully man
The larger of the two is called the "Afikomen"	Afikomen is a Greek word that can mean "I came"
The Afikomen is wrapped in a cloth and hidden	Jesus' was wrapped in a burial cloth, hid in the tomb
Children race to find the Afikomen and receive a prize	Come to Jesus as a child, run the race, receive the prize

- This brings us to the third Feast, the Feast of First Fruits, and this feast is a profound prophetic picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

It was to be the day after the Sabbath on the first day of the week	Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday
At harvest they brought a sheaf of the firstfruits as a wave offering	The priest would wave it up-down-side to side, the shape of a cross
They would offer a male lamb of the first year without blemish	Jesus was that lamb without blemish as the first fruit
They would offer two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour	Jesus fulfilled the law - "two-tablets" with ten commandments

- This is where it gets even more fascinating and exciting, these are just the first three Feasts fulfilled in the death, burial and resurrection.

- At the risk of sounding too sensational, there are four more Feasts, and the timeline after the 4<sup>th</sup> Feast, which is Pentecost, is 4-months. - In the interest of time, I'll provide a snapshot of how the first 4 were fulfilled at Christ's first coming, and the last 3 when He comes again.

REFERENCE	FEAST	FULFILLMENT
Leviticus 23:5	Passover	The Crucifixion
Leviticus 23:6-8	Unleavened Bread	The Burial
Leviticus 23:9-14	First-Fruits	The Resurrection
Leviticus 23:15-22	Pentecost	The Church Age
Leviticus 23:23-25	Trumpets	The Rapture of the Church
Leviticus 23:26-32	Day of Atonement	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
Leviticus 23:33-43	Tabernacles	The Kingdom Age and Heaven

- I would suggest that woven into the fabric of these feasts we have the common thread known as the Gospel, or if you prefer, Good News.

- However, in order for good news to be good, there must also be bad news to make the good news good, thus we need the bad news first. - So, the question becomes, what's the bad news? Thankfully, the Bible is not silent concerning the answer to this most important question.

#### THE BAD NEWS:

- Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;
- Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-
- Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death,

#### THE GOOD NEWS:

- Romans 6:23b ...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Romans 10:9-10 ...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.
- Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- This, in closing, brings us full circle to the celebration of Resurrection Sunday, vis-à-vis Jesus Christ as our Passover Lamb in our stead. - Here's how I get there, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved by the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their lives. - This because, the angel of death will Passover us by virtue of the fact that His blood was shed in our stead, his body broken in our place.

Luke 22:14-20 (NIV) — 14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." 17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.